

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 02432 230824Z

20

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25

COME-00 DRC-01 /102 W

----- 082414

R 230540Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3119

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2432

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, WFP, YE

SUBJ: WFP/YAR

ROME FOR FODAG

REF: A. SANAA 1935 B. ROME 14047 C. STATE 248765

1. DESPITE PROSPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OF A NEW WFP DIRECTOR FOR YAR, WE REMAIN CONCERNED TO PREVENT PRESENT WFP DIRECTOR, TAHIR, FROM HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH DISTRIBUTION OF 5,400 MT U.S. WHEAT DONATION. REGARDLESS OF WFP'S OFFICIAL POSITION THAT "THERE IS NO PROOF OF HIS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT" IN EARLIER DIVERSIONS OF NON-U.S. COMMODITIES, WE ARE AWARE THAT WFP INTERNALLY CONSIDERS THERE NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT OF TAHIR'S COMPLICITY. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WFP CONSIDERS IT DOES NOT HAVE PROOF TO BACK UP FORMAL CHARGE. ITS PREFERRED BUREAUCRATIC TACTIC IS INSTEAD TO OFFER TAHIR DEMOTION/TRANSFER TO A DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION ELSEWHERE IN HOPE HE WILL TAKE THE HINT AND REFUSE.

2. BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN, WE HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH UNDP REPRESENTATIVE KOUWENHOVEN. KOUWENHOVEN IS CONFIDENTIAL

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HIMSELF SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM, INTER ALIA IN THAT HE

HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THERE WAS ANYTHING
WRONG IN WFP OPERATION UNDER HIS AEGIS. HOWEVER, HE
TOOK OUR OBLIQUE POINT AND HAS AGREED (A) WORK FOR EARLIEST
ARRIVAL OF REPLACEMENT DIRECTOR, (B) PLACE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH YARG RELATING DISTRIBUTION ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF
NEW DIRECTOR, (C) EXCLUDE TAHIR FROM ANY ROLE REGARD-
ING US DONATION ON GROUNDS THAT SINCE PROGRAM WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED BY HIS SUCCESSOR HE SHOULD ALSO HANDLE
INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS, (D) KEEP US CLOSELY INFORMED OF
DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS AGREED WITH YARG.
GIVEN THESE UNDERSTANDINGS, WE CONSIDER ACTION OF
WFP/ROME ADEQUATE TO PREVENT ABUSE IN USE OF US
DONATION. IT REMAINS BADLY NEEDED BY YAR. WE HOPE
FODAG WILL KEEP PRESSURE ON FOR QUICK ARRIVAL
OF NEW WFP DIRECTOR.
CRAWFORD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, DONATIONS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANAA02432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973128/aaaaaflr.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SANAA 1935 B. ROME 14047 C. STATE
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFP/YAR ROME FOR FODAG
TAGS: EAID, YE, WFP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005